



## The Heart of Jesus

### Week 3 – “A Prayer of Protection”

**Main Objective:** Recognizing our purpose to live unified in this world with our brothers and sisters in Christ, so we can live on mission to the world around us together."

**KEEP IN MIND:** The goal is NOT to try and get through all the questions but to have a meaningful discussion. Go through and think about which questions will land and spark the most conversation with those in your group.

#### INTRO - REAL LIFE STORY:

- “Elisabeth Elliot was a missionary and a critically acclaimed author and speaker. The resounding theme of Elliot’s life was the boundless love of Jesus, and her greatest commission was to tell others of His saving grace. This costly call led her into the Amazonian jungle of Ecuador where her husband, Jim Elliot, was one of five missionaries speared to death in 1956 while attempting to make contact with members of the Auca/Waodani tribe. Elisabeth, along with her young daughter Valerie, would later return to Auca territory to live among and minister to the people who killed her husband.” (excerpt from [www.elisabethelliot.org](http://www.elisabethelliot.org))
- What does it look like to love others, even in the face of persecution?
- How does Elisabeth’s story demonstrate resilience and a resolve to trust God, even when His plan looks different than you might think?

#### READ JOHN 17:11-16

- In verse 11, Jesus prays for protection and that the disciples would “be one.” Why is unity among believers so important in accomplishing the mission God has for us?
- How does the enemy play a role in disunity and dissent within the church?
- What gets in your way of “being one” with other believers God has put in your life?
- In verse 14-16, Jesus’ prayer reveals His desire for the disciples to not be *of* the world, but to remain *in* the world. What does it mean to be *in* the world, but not *of* the world?
- Who in your life is a great example of being “in” the world but not “of” the world? Describe them to us.
- What challenges do you find in being “in” the world but not “of” the world?



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## **DIGGING DEEPER**

Key thought: God has given us one another to encourage and strengthen us in our walk with Him so we may live out the mission He has for us...

- How can “being one” with other believers strengthen your ability to be in the world but not of the world?
- What steps do you need to take in order to walk in greater unity with your brothers and sisters in Christ?
- In our small group, what are some ways we can continue to strengthen one another in this next season? (i.e., accountability, prayer, confession...)

## **CHALLENGE:**

- Spend time in prayer this week asking the Lord to reveal to you any ways you might be walking in disunity with another believer, and what steps of obedience you need to take in order to be reconciled.
- Pick one person from our small group and commit to praying for them this week.
  - \*LEADER TIP – consider making this a continual practice with your group, challenging group members to pick someone different in the group to specifically pray for with intentionality each week.

## **CLOSING:**

- Spend time praying for one another:
  - To have a resolve in trusting God despite circumstance
  - To commit to unity with one another
  - To look for ways to love the world around you without conforming to it